



22 January 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington DC 20554

WC Doc Ref No 03 11

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Medford Fabrication strongly supports Qwest's initiative to enter the long-distance telecommunications market. Telecommunications, particularly the long distance services, are very important to the success of our company and to our community overall.

Qwest has worked with Medford, Jackson County and Oregon organizations to further open local markets to competitors in an effort to provide better service for their customers through fair competition. Allowing Qwest to now enter the long distance marketplace will generate additional competition and bring the benefits of lower rates and improved services and dependability to individual customers.

In south-west Oregon, increased long distance competition would have a positive impact on our economic development efforts as well. Competition will provide additional Point-of-Presence (POP) facilities in communities with Qwest central offices. Grants Pass, for example, would have their own POP and could send communications directly, instead of first having to send their traffic through the POP in Medford. This critical piece of infrastructure would lead to lower rates for businesses, especially call and data centers. In fact this lack of a local POP has been identified by several companies as a reason for not locating facilities in Josephine County.

The local presence of a POP and the ability to utilize one company for both local and long distance services should result in great cost savings to area businesses. This should also bring the benefits of increased efficiency and reliability of communications and data exchange.

Medford Fabrication is very supportive of the Qwest initiative to enter into the long distance telephone market here in Oregon. We look forward to the benefits it will bring to our citizens, our business community and our region as a whole. We urge your favorable consideration of Qwest's application.

Yours truly,

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cc: Commissioners Tristani, Abernathy, Copps, Secretary Salas